

Was Prophet Isa ('alayhi assalam) Called "Red-Faced" in an Offensive Manner?

by

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Argument

We read the following hadeeth in Saheeh Bukhari, Vol. 4, Book 55, Hadith 607:

Narrated Abu Huraira:

Allah's Messenger said, "On the night of my Ascension to Heaven, I saw (the prophet) Moses who was a thin person with lank hair, looking like one of the men of the tribe of Shanua; and I saw Jesus who was of average height with **red face as if he had just come out of a bathroom**. And I resemble prophet Abraham more than any of his offspring does. Then I was given two cups, one containing milk and the other wine. Gabriel said, 'Drink whichever you like.' I took the milk and drank it. Gabriel said, 'You have accepted what is natural, (True Religion i.e. Islam) and if you had taken the wine, your followers would have gone astray.' "

Is this any way to speak about a great prophet with such a graphic description?

Response

The word translated as "bathroom" is *deemas*, which has a number of meanings.¹ Even if we go with the meaning, *hammam*, there is no problem, for *hammam* may be translated as "bath" and not necessarily "bathroom."

It is pretty clear that what is in reference here is not a red face after defecation but rather a red face after taking a bath. The problem lies in the defective mind of the individual raising this argument and not the hadeeth. There is absolutely nothing wrong with likening someone's red face to the redness of a person's face after he steps out from taking his bath. It is a descriptive analogy, which is not negatively graphic in any way, shape, or form.

¹ Suggested meanings are bath, shelter, etc. See: Ibnul Jawzi, [Kashf al-Mushkil](#); Imam an-Nawawi, [Sharh Saheeh Muslim](#); Ibn Hajar, [Fathul Baari](#); Ibn Mandhur, [Lisaan al-'Arab](#), etc.